A Letter for a Chriſtian Family.

Directed to all true Chriſtians to read.

VVhich being ſealed up in heart and mind,
Nothing but truth in it you'l find:
Both old and young, both rich and poor,
Bear it in mind, keep it in ſtore;
And think upon the time to come,
For time doth paſs, the glaſs doth run,
Therefore whilſt thou haſt time and ſpace,
Call to the Lord above for grace;
Then he will ſurely thee defend,
And thou ſhalt make a happy end.

To the Tune of, *The Godly Mans Inſtructions.*

BOth young and old, both rich and poor give ear,
Unto theſe verſes which I ſhall declare,
And give good heed to that which here is pend,
And ſtrive in time your wicked lives to mend.

But yet there's many that doth not regard,
Till for their ſins they have a juſt reward:
But ſtill goes on their wicked courſes run,
Until both ſoul and body be undone.

Therefore good people let us have a care,
And unto Chriſt with ſpeed let us repair;
Leave off your ſins which now do ſo abound,
For 'twas for ſin that once the world was drown'd.

How many ſins within this land we ſee?
In high and low of every degree;
Both rich and poor they now do live at ſtrife,
And great debate is betwixt man and wife.

Brother and Siſter they do diſagree,
As by experience now we daily ſee;
And children that have hardly uſe of tongue,
Will ſwear and curſe as they do paſs along.

And ſome will curſe their parents to their face,
Methinks to them it is a ſoul diſgrace.
But 'tis forbidden in the Laws of God,
Therefore let's ſerve him all with one accord.

The ſin of Pride we ſee doth ſo excell,
In Men and Women now the truth to tell;
And for that ſin we read that Satan fell,
From an high Angel to a devil in hell.

Alſo we read of Dives pomp and ſtate,
And of poor Lazarus that lay at his gate,
In Abrahams boſome he was nouriſhed,
And with ſweet comforts he was daily fed.

Whilſt Dives for one drop did call and cry,
To cool his tongue, he did in torments lye,
But any comfort could he not receive,
Becauſe poor Lazarus he would not relieve.

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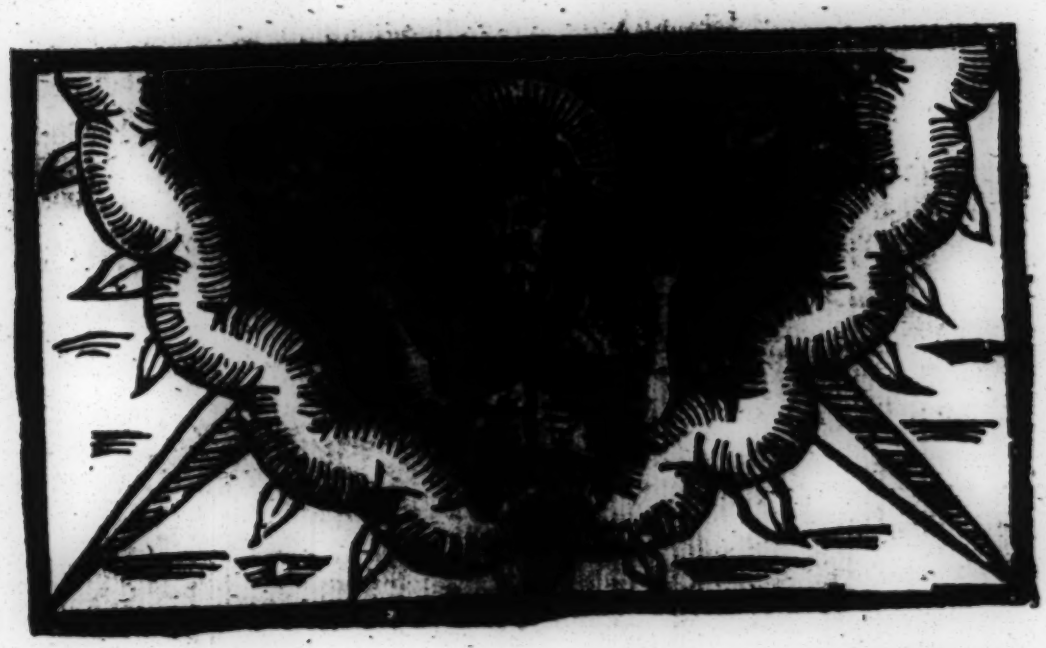

In fashions strange, and many a fond delight,
We please our fancies now both day and night,
And never think upon the time to come,
Although our glass have but one hour to run.

There's many now that to the Church do go,
Their pomp and pride, and bravery for to show:
More then to hear the sacred word of God,
But let all such beware his heavy rod.

Be not too covetous in heart and mind,
Nor to that sin be not too much inclin'd:
Remember Judas how he was too bold,
For covetousness his Lord and Master sold.

Be not too prudent of this thy worldly wealth,
Do not trust to it, for it is but pelf;
'Twill fade away, and leave thee in the dust, (must.
From thence thou cam'st, and thither return thou

Lord give us grace to understand aright,
Thy holy laws, and therein take delight,
And comfort those the which are comfortless,
And help the Widdow in her great distress.

Likewise the Fatherless O Lord defend,
And thy true grace unto all Christians send;
And grant that we thy holy name may fear,
And serve thee still with heart most pure & clear.

How many Messengers the Lord hath sent,
To give us warning that we should repent,
But yet our hearts so stubborn are I say,
That we Gods holy Word will not obey.

Sermon on Sermons we do daily hear,
By Ministers well learn'd, as doth appear,
To give us warning to repent our sin,
Which we so long time now have lived in.

All you that read these lines which here is pen'd,
Observe them well, & strive your lives to mend:
For time doth slide, and swiftly pass away,
One hour or minute for no man will stay.

Our time which in this world we have to spend,
In prayers and tears unto the Lord lets send,
For to defend us all from Satans power,
That seeks our souls and bodies to devour.

Now to conclude, the God of peace and love,
Grant that our souls may dwell in heaven above;
And grant our King & Queen a prosperous reign,
The Gospel pure amongst us to maintain.

By me *J. V.*

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